COMMUNITY BUILDINGS

Excerpts from 1924 Annual Reports of State and County Extension Agents

Prepared by M. C. Wilson, in Charge, Division of Reports and Efficiency Studies, Office of Cooperative Extension Work, U. S. Department of Agriculture

This brief is one of a series issued by the Office of Cooperative Extension Work as a part of its informational service to State and county extension workers. The material contained herein is not released for printed publication.

Cooperative Extension Work in Agriculture and Home Economics
United States Department of Agriculture and
State Agricultural Colleges Cooperating
Extension Service, Office of Cooperative Extension Work
Washington, D. C.

Brief No. 26

August, 1925

Excerpts from 1924 Annual Reports of State and County Extension Agents.

	A SECOND STATE OF THE SECO	
	age	Page
California		New York
Butte County	2	Home demonstration leader 6
El Dorado County		Broome County 7
Merced County	3	Monroe County
Georgia		Oklahoma
Spaulding County	3	Cleveland County
Ware County	3	Tennessee
Iowa	٠.	Marshall County
Dickinson County	7	
Maryland)	Virginia James City County
	1.	Camer Oney Courty attended
Cecil County	64	Prince William County 8
New Hampshire	- 1	West Virginia
Merrimac County	4	Grant County9
New Mexico		Harrison County 9
Dona Ana County	5	

California

The rural women's rest room, established in connection with the farm bureau office some years ago, was this year recognized as much in need of repairs. At the June meeting of the county chairman, the matter was taken up and a committee appointed to investigate the needs, to consult the home demonstration agent, and to report the estimated expense back to the county committee. This was done; the county chairman then presented the plan to the board of directors and asked for an appropriation from the treasury to cover it. Fifty dollars was voted, and the committee proceeded immediately to make the necessary repairs. The repairs included re-papering, painting the woodwork, new curtains and lounge cover, and some rearrangement of the electric lighting. The results are reported entirely satisfactory, the room now being attractive, light, and cheerful.

Since it was first established, this room has been in constant service, an average of 6 to 10 women daily making use of it. Besides its general service to the rural women, the room is frequently used as a meeting room for the home department committees and other committees.-E. Constance Douglas, Home Demonstration Agent, Oroville, Butte County.

The Fairplay-Aukum hall has been the center of community activity throughout the year, though this has not been as closely associated with farm center work as would seem desirable. Fortnightly dances and other social affairs have been held throughout the year, and these have practically cleared the building of all incumbrance. The Camino center began an agitation for a community house early in the spring and this finally culminated in the pur-

*No attempt is made to cite all references to community buildings in this circular. Only selected extracts showing typical methods employed and results obtained in a number of States are included. Owing to differences in terminology used in the various States and to other local conditions, the information herein should be reviewed by the State subject-matter specialist concerned before incorporating any part of it in the extension plans for the State.

The same of the sa and the second second

of in manufact of white the Black will be the and a responsible to the second

i in a second and a second

the second transfer of the second and the same of the same of the same

the contraction of the section of

to an in the annual to have the

o myligat sixtain in a man and and a six sixtain safe

The party was a second second second with and the first the second of the second of the

Water State Control of the Control o and the first of the first of the second of

The state of the s The second secon

- 120 Mary propries and Links and Greek and Arthresis and The second and the second - Company of the first contract the first contract of the cont and the residence of the second secon

The solution course on the said for a series of the said of the sa

A CONTRACTOR OF THE PROPERTY.

The state of the s

The state of the s

11.

The second of the second of the second

The same of the same of the same

S. P. San Burnell Committee

chase of the headquarters building of the Western States Gas and Electric Co.'s construction camp. This building is about 60 by 90 feet and is well suited to its new purpose. It is now being torn down and moved to the clubhouse site of the center, an acre of ground half a mile above Camino.—Burle J. Jones, County Agent, Placerville, El Dorado County.

The rest room which was sponsored by the county committee of this county is still existing. There have been repeated attempts to do away with it, but these attempts have met with such hearty opposition by people of the town of Merced, business men, and people of the county, that the appropriation from the chamber of commerce and the board of supervisors of the county has continued. The hostess, Mrs. Ione Sensabaugh, presents a report of attendance to each meeting of the county committee by which the popularity of the place is shown.

While the department was not active in keeping up the finances of the rest room, the committee on rest rooms has charge of furnishings.—Ada L. Robertson, Home Demonstration Agent, Merced, Merced County.

Georgia

The Spaulding County home demonstration council, composed of two or more members from each community organization, helps to plan the program of work to fit their particular needs and then cooperates to perfect those plans. There are now four well-organized clubs and two more just ready to begin functioning. These clubs sponsor the schools, build up rural activities, and create better social relations generally.

One of these clubs is remodeling an old discarded schoolhouse into a most attractive community clubhouse. It is one of the oldest buildings in the county and naturally much sentiment and affection centers there, but all were surprised at the wonderful result obtained by the entire community cooperating in having a lunch stand at the Criffin fair, where \$303 was cleared to be used in the improvement of this building.—Myrtle S. Sibley, Home Demonstration Agent, Griffin, Spaulding County.

Perhaps the most outstanding development of 1924 in the support of extension work in Ware County was the establishment of the community clubbouse by the Waycro's women's club and the installation therein of complete cooking equipment for the home demonstration agent, and providing ample room for an office for the county agent and home demonstration agent and abundant space for small community meetings.

The building is neat, clean, and attractive, and is well located near the courthouse. As a home for all the people of the county as well as of the cities, it has done more than any other one thing to bring a feeling of neighborliness among all the people of the county.—R.J.Hyde, County Agent, Waycross, Ware County.

Iowa

For some time Westport township has felt the need of a larger meeting place for the farm bureau. The Center schoolhouse has been packed to capacity at almost every meeting since the organization was perfected, and lately the crowds became so large that the schoolhouse was entirely inadequate to accommodate them. The suggestion for enlarging the building was made, and a

Honorabete was the same and a second well at magnitude and an analyse The Market of the same of the same to the said some in the second that the second of the second is not with the state of the s s different at the for the state of the large shall be 2.1 and the same the first of the state of the all the state of the and in at the surprise And a fine har by - 6th Congression and Congression and Congression LES CARTAGORISTAS AND IN PROPERTY OF committee was appointed to develop a plan. After some consideration it was decided to add 20 feet to the end of the schoolhouse.

The next question was how to finance the proposition, and an appeal for contributions was made. Over \$225 was immediately subscribed to start the work. The project was approved by the school board and work started. The remodeling was done during July, so it did not interfere with the school work. The actual outlay in cash was \$671.37, but there were over 40 people who donated 54 days' work in hauling lumber and material, building, shingling, and so forth. Only a small amount was spent for carpenter work. With the rearrangement of this building, the community has a hall with a seating space 24 by 40 feet, a stage 10 by 24 feet, a kitchen 10 by 16 feet, and an entry 8 by 10 feet, with its equipment of 72 folding chairs, school seats, recitation seats, and a dozen benches. An audience of 200 can be comfortably accommodated.

The township farm bureau expects to hold plays and other community activities to raise the money to pay off the rest of the expense.—L.K. Bennett, County Agent, Spirit Lake, Dickinson County.

Maryland

One project in our county that I am very much delighted over was carried out by the new women's club at Rowlandsville. The women decided they wanted a clubroom, so plans were made to fix up one room of their school building, the school now needing only one room. We had discussions on refinishing of woodwork and furniture, and color harmony, and then decided what furniture we needed. Each woman donated something for the room, and a day was set to gather the contributions and make them presentable.

About a week before the date set for the party to celebrate the opening of the clubroom I was notified to come to an old store building instead of to the schoolhouse. This room now transformed into a clubroom was once a lodge room and is in the second story of an old warehouse. One must see this room to realize how delightful a forsaken place can be made with a little paint, energy, and good taste. One woman donated the wall paper and did the papering. Another painted the woodwork, while another furnished the floor covering. A small desk, a number of chairs, an old-fashioned bench, a stove, two tables, a sewing machine, and an organ were donated.

Some of the furniture was painted black and some gray, and this with the pearl-gray paper, gray woodwork, and gray floor covering formed a back-ground for the lovely orange and gray cretonne cushions and the orange Japanese curtains that we used.

Thus, with a small expenditure of money, and a will to work for their rural community, these women made a delightful community center.—L.R.Grimm, Home Demonstration Agent, Elkton, Cecil County.

New Hampshire

The use of the rest room the past year has been quite satisfactory. While the increased patronage of the room has increased the cost of maintenance, it is believed that the extra expense is justified. It is impossible to give the number that used the room for less than one-third register.

Visitors are registered from New York, Massachusetts, Maine, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Jersey, Vermont, Virginia, Georgia, California, and Canada, while New Hampshire is well represented from every part of the State.

on the recommendation of the recommendation of the second A STATE OF THE STA In right to the freezers are designed by the first the f A CARLO CONTRACTOR OF A CONTRACTOR OF THE STATE OF THE ST the control of the state of the A CONTRACT OF THE RESIDENCE OF THE PROPERTY OF

A de agrico de la and there is not a first them, were the first to the first one of the first of the

The second secon

ELIO RECENT

The control of the party of the a strong to the control of the contr

Our expenses for the year were as follows: Rent, \$180; electric lights, \$12; cleaning room, \$58.85; matron on Saturday, \$33; gas, \$4.65; supplies, \$cl.C). The following donations were received; Hopkinton South End Club, \$5; sale of canned goods, \$3.56; sale, October 18, 1924, \$63.17; chamber of commerce, \$150.

The room has been open every day, except Sundays and holidays, the entire year. Our visiting patrons appreciate this room so much and think there should be such a place in every town.—Rhandera A. Armstrong, Concord, Merrimack County.

New Mexico

The farm bureau rest room on the second floor of the Temple of Agriculture, Las Cruces, New Mexico, is a room 35 by 55 feet with four small rooms adjoining. The rooms were originally used for a dance hall but were closed after the Elephant Butte Irrigation District and the farm bureau bought the building.

Knowing that a great many women and children came to town each week, the home demonstration agent decided to get permission to open these rooms to be used for the farm people. The permission to open the rooms was easily obtained, but the problem was to furnish these rooms and refinish the floors which were in bad condition. The four small rooms were ideally laid out for kitchen, nursery, and lunch rooms. Two lavatories and two drinking fountains were installed.

The problem of furnishing the rooms was taken up at once and discussed at the community meetings. The women were asked to cooperate, and they gladly did. Each community appointed a chairman to assist, and to collect \$2, which was their share toward the curtains. The farm bureau contributed \$100. With this money in the hands of the treasurer, the furnishing began.

With the remodeling of the building, nine large and two small windows needed covering. Four 3-yard blue denim curtains saved from the rest room of the farm bureau office, a 6-foot table, and two rockers were all we had to start with.

The home demonstration agent and a committee of one went to El Paso and purchased a bolt of cretonne - 52 yards for \$14.50 wholesale. The pattern is dark blue to match the denim, and a very little rose to match the walls. Some of the women of four nearby communities met and made the curtains and covered the couches. The cretonne was used for the windows.

President Kent of the New Mexico Agricultural College donated three cots and mattresses. The mattresses were first covered with unbleached muslin, and then with a cover of the plain blue denim made with a valance of cretonne bordered with the plain blue. Five pillows were made, two blue denim, one rose, and two figured cretonne.

A small table found in the building and the chairs were painted with ivory enamel. The top of the table was covered with white oilcloth to use for lunches. A baby bed was donated, and this was painted white.

As nine unshaded windows made the room too light, one of our women sent east to her brother who is in business, and obtained the very best oil shades for less than the cotton shades would have cost here. We now had three rockers and three couches but needed more as the room is so large, so the irrigation district donated four dozen folding chairs.

Our old oak table which had been painted white, was sent to a shop to be refinished and now makes a fine oak library table.

is della liberia concretator carectatora a chestrano con restoto pod co contrata della contrata

ment that the course of the party of the color of the col

condition start san to perstance a one regarding water small and

The stady was but a relation in larger and an incident and of these does

It was decided to use one of the small moms as a nursery to keep the small children occupied during the meetings and for the babies while asleep. The floor of the first small room was covered with blue and white linoleum, white curtains were put up, and the white baby bed with pads, a white chair, and a basket of toys were installed.

The kitchenette had built-in cupboards but no shelves. A carpenter donated his services, charging only for the lumber which was \$5, and put in the shelves. We had a three-burner oil stove and oven left from our old office, so we had it overhauled for \$4. We needed a sink, but the bids for installing one were from \$28 to \$65 which made it prohibitive. A meeting of the rest-room committee was called to discuss the price of a sink. Plans were drawn for two draining boards. We had planned to buy a sink in El Paso when our chairman from Bernino donated a sink they had brought from Arizona and had never used. With the sink to start with, we found a plumber who put in the draining boards and did all the plumbing work for \$10. This demonstration alone proved to the women the cheapness of installing water in the kitchen.

One of our local merchants made us a price of \$13.50 on a 72-piece set of white dishes. The irrigation office donated one dozen cups, saucers, and plates, and one dozen knives, forks, and spoons. It is now possible to serve the people at the rest room at one time,

The two hardware merchants in town donated a blue and white enamel tea-kettle, a 2-gallon coffeepot, a dish pan, and kitchen knives and spoons. Each community donated and hemmed two dish towels, so our kitchen is well equipped.—Sara Van Vleck, Home Demonstration Agent, Las Cruces, Dona Ana County.

New York

Eleven counties, Chenango, Rensselaer, Oneida, Jefferson, Broome, Delaware, Erie, Oswego, Tompkins, Lewis, and Monroe, have done something toward establishing and maintaining community houses.

In Oneida County an acre of land was given as a Christmas gift for this purpose and the home bureau raised \$504 toward a building fund. In Chenango County, one unit has over \$3,000 in a building fund raised by taking over the lunch concessions at the county fair each year, by an annual bazaar at Christmas time, and by community parties. Broome County has established two community houses during the year. In one case the money was raised by a house-to-house canvass. In the other the women rented an old two-story building, cleaned, painted, and papered it themselves, and denated some of the furnishings. Money for the rent was raised by holding ice-cream socials and by subletting the hall for elections. In Wayne County a committee was formed of representatives from each organization in town, this committee taking the lead in community improvement. As a result two communities are building community halls.

In some counties the grange hall is the logical center, and home bureaus have cooperated with the grange hall in Oneida and Tompkins Counties by purchasing silver and other equipment, including a hot-water tank for the grange hall. It brings the home bureaus and the grange closer together, and by coordinating their programs they help each other. In one county the grange has one night set aside as farm and home bureau night, leaving the program arrangement to the farm and home bureau organization.—Martha Van Rensselaer, Home Demonstration Leader, New York State Agricultural College, Ithaca.

The matter of arranging for a community room or house has been agitated for several years in two or three centers. Possibly the one place which has gone farthest in achieving this end is Parma Corners. An old hall, known as Lyceum Hall, was donated to the community many years ago for recreational purposes. Recently, the home-bureau members have taken over this hall and by means of entertainments and community dances raised funds to lay a new floor, to buy dishes and an oil stove, and to redecorate the hall. The church in the community burned this winter, and the improvements brought about by the women have done much to make the hall serve its many purposes to better advantage. The hall is used by the young people as a place in which they have their recreation in their own community.—Edith M. Gordon, Home Demonstration Agent, Rochester, Monroe County.

Willow Point Home Bureau Community Hall. Increased membership and distances between houses made it impractical to hold meetings at the members' homes and a place to hold community "get-togethers" was much needed. As the hall is in the center of the community, it is easier for the women to go to the meetings, and larger attendance is obtained. Much time and labor is saved the members who would have to prepare their homes to entertain so large a group.

This hall was for years the general store, and was dirty and in need of repairs. The home bureau agreed to paint, paper, and clean the interior, thereby getting a discount in the rent. The work of painting and paper hanging was donated, and the members cleaned the floor and small room in the rear to be used for a kitchen. The wall paper was given by the firm from whom the paint was purchased.

The old smoky chocolate-colored ceiling was easily and inexpensively made light and clean by means of two coats of cream-colored water paint. The owner left the electric light fixtures, heating stove, and desk for our use. Members gave and lent chairs, tables, curtains, and stove wood. Money for the rent was raised by means of ice-cream socials and subletting the hall for elections.—Ann P. Duncan, Home Demonstration Agent, Binghamton, Broome County.

Oklahoma

The members of the Clothier club bought Clothier schoolhouse, which was abandoned when the district consolidated, and have put a roof on it, repaired and painted the interior, bought new shades and draperies for the windows, a heating stove, new chairs, and one of the members gave an oil stove for cooking purposes. They have spent \$850 on this community house, kept up their community work, and are out of debt and have money in the bank. They use the community house for church meetings, for a place to vote, and for all community meetings.—Hazel C. Usner, Home Demonstration Agent, Norman, Cleveland County.

Tennessee

At last the rest room for Lewisburg, Marshall County, is complete. Reports show that it is the nicest and most complete rest room in the State. The court of the county appropriated \$5000 for the building of this rest room, and it was dedicated and presented to the rural women on the day of their home-im-

e trape of the second

provement program. This room is really a complete building, consisting of a reception room, hall, resting room and lawatory upstairs, and a large dining room in the basement. The reception room is furnished with brown reed furniture, and the resting room has three small beds and two childrens' beds. A woman is employed to care for the building and to receive all visitors that come. Constant use is being made of it by the country people.

No county can feel a greater pride in its accomplishments along the line of clubrooms than can Marshall County. We have six new rooms this year. One is located at Chapel Hill in a discarded store building, and is fully equipped with stoves, dishes, and so forth. It is used for school socials,

community club meetings, and every community gathering.

The one located at Berlin in a vacant room at the school building, is indeed an attractive room. It was calcimined pale yellow and has curtains of brown domestic with touches of blue. This too is used for a community house.

Cornersville found a place for their room in the basement of the Presbyterian church and they have certainly made use of it this summer. They have included a steam-pressure cooker in their equipment.—Fay A. Liggett, Lewisburg, Marshall County.

Virginia

The Norge club held 12 meetings during the year and kept its work moving smoothly. The last payment was made on the lighting plant which the club installed in the community hall last year, and they hope to meet the last payment on the building next month.

This club was of material help in supporting the work of the annual farmer's institute, by lending the hall, by serving dinners, and by entertaining guests from a distance. In October the club entertained the teachers of the county, thus enabling the parents of the pupils attending the consolidated schools to meet the teachers, as well as the teachers to know the parents.

When the kitchen contest was closed in November the meeting was held in the Norge community hall, gratis, and the club members served suppers after the meeting. This hall is really the county rural center, being used for dances, basket-ball games, and a variety of association meetings. In fact, so many organizations used the hall that a schedule of meetings had to be made out many months chead. The only charges for the use of the hall are for the light and janitor service.—Mabel P. Massey, Home Demonstration Agent, Williamsburg, James City County.

Our big organization is the womans auxiliary, composed of representative women from each magisterial district. This organization acts as a basis for demonstration work; it fosters the rest-room project which is a boon to the weary traveler, to the tired mother when she is in town, and is a place where mothers can go to care for their babies. Many a baby is left with the matron while the mother does her shopping, knowing that the little one is well cared for.

To finance this rest room the committee resorts to entertainments and similar activities. A contribution box is placed in the room, where many drop in nickels and dimes, and sometimes a quarter or half a dollar. It takes \$300 per year to keep this project going.—Lillian V. Gilbert, Home Demonstration Agent, Manassas, Prince William County.

West Virginia

Before I arrived in this county a definite movement for a community club house was under way. In 1922 a suitable lot had been donated and work begun. The plan called for a building 35 by 70 feet, with a basement under the entire building.

When I came the first of July, carpenters had just been hired and work started in earnest. Two attempts were made before a charter was granted. Finally such a charter was obtained until September 22, but from that date the Mt.Storm Community Club became the Mt.Storm Community Cooperative Association. The building was completed October 31, 1924, and this community has the honor of having one of the very few strictly rural community buildings in this State.

The lot is 2 acre in size. The building is 35 by 70 feet, one story and basement. The basement has a room 14 by 33 feet, with a 10-foot ceiling, is well lighted, and has a concrete floor. The main floor has a 17-foot ceiling with no supporting pillars. At one end is a stage 14 feet deep and 18 feet wide, and a 7-foot wide dressing room at each side. The building is a frame structure, storm-sheeted, papered, and weather-boarded outside. It is sealed inside with yellow-pine ceiling. The building will be heated by a furnace and lighted by electricity, although neither of these has yet been installed.

The building is ideally situated at the intersection of the north-western turnpike and the Morgantown road. It is quite an achievement for this community, as the families as a whole are not well off financially, a large number of them being tenants and woodcutters. There is still a rather large debt on the building, and so far no outside aid has been received. The people are bravely shouldering their burden and trying to devise ways and means for paving the debt and equipping the building. They are an industrious people who can be relied upon to do things if some one will just push them and show them the way.—Nina Ball, Home Demonstration Agent, Franklin, Grant and Pendelton Counties.

Probably the most outstanding thing about the 4-H club work the past year in Harrison County was the completion of the cottage at the State 4-H camp at Jackson's Mill. This project was started in October, 1923.

Credit for the completed building goes largely to the county court for their willingness to aid in the project. The first appropriation was for \$7,000 in 1923. The contract for the foundation was \$3,385, and the contract for the completion of the building was \$13,700, making a total of \$17,085 for the entire structure. The county court was called in at the time of the letting of the contract and they included \$10,000 in the July budget for the completion of the building.

Nine hundred dollars was subscribed by the boys and girls and others in the county. This was kept as a separate fund and was used for extras and details not covered in the contract. Certificates were issued to all donors showing the amount that they had contributed to this fund.

La de la compania del compania de la compania del compania de la compania del la compania de la compania del la compania white the second the first things to prove you THE RESERVE OF THE PROPERTY OF Apprendiction of the control of the and the west of the second of hat had the second pulping on a participant in the control of the realistic biling relices good provide anti-debig - 2 liste better to The residence of a stage of the TO THE THE RESTRICT OF THE PARTY OF THE PART A contract of the contract of

On April 27, the Grand Lodge of Masons of West Virginia officially laid the cornerstone with proper ceremonies. Eight special street cars and a hundred automobiles brought the great throng of 12,000 people to the one-time home of Stonewall Jackson at the State 4-H camp.

In connection with the regular program we were honored by having the Hon. Howard M. Gore, afterward Secretary of Agriculture, deliver an address

and express his personal and official approval of the project.

The cottage has a large basement with one room 30 by 36 feet and a lavatory 15 by 15 feet, in addition to the stairway landing. On the first floor is an assembly room 30 by 36 feet. Doors from this room open into the enclosed porch, kitchen, hallway, and office. On the second floor are three large bedrooms, a washroom, and a bathroom. There are 12 wash basins, 5 lavatories, 1 shower, and 1 bathtub in the building. It is finished throughout in oak. The roof is of wooden shingles and the siding of cypress. The front porch is 16 feet wide and 48 feet long. Forty-nine windows afford plenty of light. The building is large, but is so constructed that it fits well into the landscape.

During the farm women's camp in August, 37 women were quartered in the cottage, even though it was not completed at that time. The large room on the first floor is now used for study and recitations during the week and for Sunday school on Sunday afternoons. A thriving Sunday school meets there regularly, as it is the only large room on the grounds that can be heated.

The building of this county cottage at the State 4-H came at Jackson's Will has probably quickened general interest in club work within the county.

-Russel H. Gist, County Agent, Clarksburg, Harrison County.
